



Public Art Investment and Delivery Framework - Interim



Mosman Council

Public Art Investment and Delivery Framework (Interim)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

UAP acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and recognise the value, diversity and integrity of First Nations arts, cultures and expressions, and their continual significance today.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We acknowledge that Indigenous sovereignty has never been ceded.

Introduction

Public art strengthens civic identity, enriches the public realm and fosters meaningful connections between people and place. As Mosman evolves, a considered program of cultural investment can celebrate local stories and histories, support community life and enhance the experience of key destinations across the municipality.

This Interim Public Art Investment and Delivery Framework has been prepared to support the directions established through the working Mosman Masterplan while a comprehensive Public Art Masterplan is being developed. This alignment provides a strategic foundation for future investment, ensuring that culture and creativity are embedded within the broader vision for Mosman’s growth and civic development.

Mosman Public Art Masterplan (In Development)

The development of a place-specific Public Art Masterplan presents an important opportunity to articulate a long-term cultural and creative vision that reflects Mosman’s distinctive character, heritage and evolving public realm.

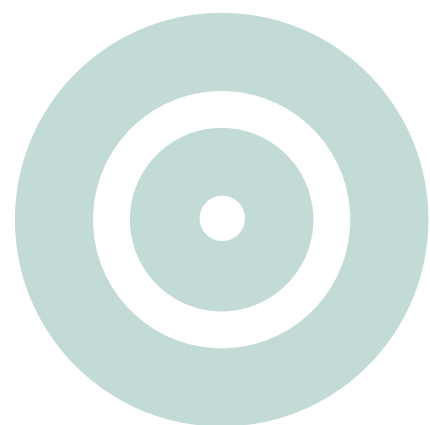
The Public Art Masterplan will establish a curatorial framework to guide the commissioning of meaningful and contextually aligned public art, identify future artwork opportunities including typologies, experiences and locations. It will also guide best practice commissioning processes, artist procurement models, community engagement approaches and cultural methodologies to support the successful delivery of public art outcomes across the Mosman local government area.

This interim document responds to emerging priorities identified in the Mosman Masterplan, including civic precinct improvements and the creation of high-quality public spaces that residents value and enjoy. It outlines preliminary curatorial and delivery principles for further exploration in the forthcoming Public Art Masterplan.

ROLE OF PUBLIC ART

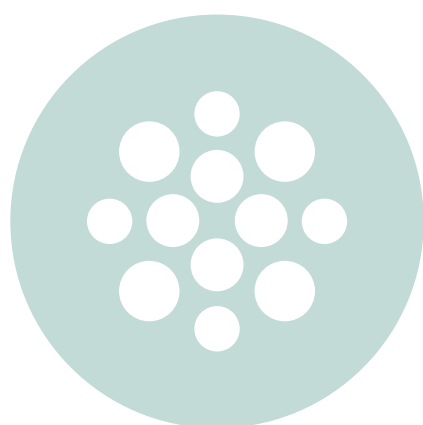
Public art is a connective medium that binds communities together. Engaging the local culture of a place, public art is one of the most versatile tools for creating vibrant and thriving places. A visual reflector of a place's identity and the aspirations of its people, public art has the power to transform mundane spaces into inspiring places.

Impacts and Benefits of Public Art



Define Place

Public art is foundational in establishing the distinctive visual identity of a place, embodying the unique contextual and cultural identity of cities and communities. Opportunities to engage First Nations artists and local voices will be celebrated.



Transform Communities

Public art is a transformative tool which holds the potential to define public spaces. Establishing hubs for social connection, public art fosters authentic interactions between people and their environments.



Establish Legacy

Public art holds immense potential to capture the zeitgeist of its time, existing as a permanent capsule which embodies the contextual influences at its time of commissioning. It reflects site-specific histories, future aspirations and builds an arts and culture identity.



Embed Sustainability

Public art is vital in enhancing the sustainability of a city by implementing durable and enduring artworks which respond to the city’s environmental ambitions, attract investment, boost visitation and improve wellbeing.



Bolster Economy

Public art is instrumental in boosting local economies, not only by increasing tourism and incidental spend in surrounding areas, but by growing creative economies through investing in culturally rich spaces that meaningfully engage with the community.

Stories of Place

We start by asking 'What are the stories of this place?'

Through historical and social research, key narratives emerge that form the foundation of the Mosman Public Art Masterplan.

Living Legacies: Nature, Culture and Community

The Mosman Public Art Masterplan includes a chapter profiling important place narratives that underpin the public art approach. This page provides a snapshot of key ideas that have been expanded upon in the full public art masterplan.

Mosman Council is situated on the traditional lands of the Borogegal and Cammeraigal peoples, custodians of saltwater knowledge who have lived on and cared for this Country for more than 60,000 years. Their enduring presence is evident in shell middens preserved on rock surfaces, as well as in more than 200 sandstone engravings and pigment artworks that depict the marine life of this harbour landscape. Here, water sustains human and non-human kin and, since time immemorial, has guided movement across the harbour and shaped relationships to this place.

When British ships arrived in Sydney harbour in 1788, and at Mosman Bay the following year, this culturally rich place was profoundly altered by colonisation and industry. In the early 1800s, sheltered coves were transformed by whaling, with Archibald Mosman (the suburb's namesake), establishing Sydney's first shore-based whaling station in Mosman Bay. As residential settlement grew, whaling declined, and by the 1840s the bay had shifted to ship repair and overhauling.

While industry reshaped the shoreline, First Nations peoples continued to navigate the disruptions of colonisation. Among the most significant figures connected to Mosman was Bungaree, a Guringai man and contemporary of Bennalong and Pemulwuy, who acted as a cultural intermediary between Aboriginal peoples and British settlers and accompanied Mathew Flinders on several voyagers contributing to

cross-cultural exchange. In 1815, Bungaree received land at Georges Head - the first land grant made to an Aboriginal person by the colonial government. Today, his legacy endures through exhibitions, performances and community projects that continue to explore his life and influence.

Mosman's natural beauty has long inspired artists - from the late nineteenth-century painter camps at Sirius Cove and Curlew Camp, where Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts and Julian Ashton helped shape Australian Impressionism, to later artists such as Margaret Preston, whose work was influenced by the harbour and bushland.

Mosman also occupies an important place in Sydney's military history, from nineteenth-century fortifications and HMAS Penguin to the 1942 arrival of Japanese midget submarines in Sydney Harbour. Remnants of this past remain visible across the headlands, where forts, tunnels and defence infrastructure continue to shape the landscape.

Today, Mosman's natural, cultural and built legacies are being carried forward by Mosman Council in partnership with the community that lives, works and thrives here. The Harbour Trust, Council advocacy groups and local organisations collaborate to conserve the area's significant landscapes, historic sites and architectural heritage, while Mosman Art Gallery & Museum champions the area's rich artistic traditions, showcasing both historic and contemporary artists who have, and continue to make an important contribution to this place.

Mosman is more than a place of natural beauty; it is a vibrant community shaped by generosity, creativity, and a strong commitment to social and environmental care.



Top left: Artists camp at Edwards Beach, Balmoral, c. 1890. Collection Mosman Library.
Bottom left: Carvings at the Grotto Point at Drobydd Head in Mosman
Bottom right: Balmoral Beach, photograph by Distan Bach

Source

01 Mosman Council, <https://mosman.nsw.gov.au/community/people-culture-and-history/a-brief-history-of-mosman>
02 Australian Museum, *Bungaree*, <https://australian.museum/about/history/exhibitions/trailblazers/bungaree>
03 Pocket Guide to Sydney, <https://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/mosman.html>
04 Mosman Collective, <https://mosmancollective.com/history/attack-on-sydney-harbour-in-1942-japanese-submarines-brought-wwii-to-mosmans-doorstep/>
05 Sydney Federation Harbour Trust, <https://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/>
06 Mosman Art Gallery, <https://mosmanartgallery.org.au>

Artwork Activations

Preliminary Artwork Typologies

Public artwork typologies provide a strategic and curatorial framework for delivering meaningful, site-responsive outcomes across the public realm. A series of preliminary typologies has been developed to guide the Public Art Masterplan. These establish the experiential intent and potential artwork forms that will inform the future development and commissioning of public art across Mosman.



Iconic Markers of Place

Creates iconic artistic interventions that become destinations and defining place markers. Prominent and enduring, these works become synonymous with Mosman's identity.

Potential artwork forms include, but are not limited to:

- Freestanding sculptural forms
- Integrated ground plane treatment



Embedded Storytelling

Celebrates the fine-grain character of Mosman's public spaces, revealing local stories through intimate, site-specific interventions that enrich everyday experience.

Potential artwork forms include, but are not limited to:

- Small scale sculptures and/or attachments (standalone sculptures or integrated treatments)
- Integrated ground plane treatment
- Facade treatments (murals, integrated forms directly in the built form or sculptural attachments)



Artist-led Functional Elements

Transforms everyday public infrastructure into creative and functional experiences that encourage gathering and interaction. Potential artwork forms include but are not limited to:

- Artist-led social structures including seating, tables or shelters
- Artist-led micro playscapes
- Artist-led lighting

Location Overview

The forthcoming Mosman Public Art Masterplan will identify a series of public art opportunities to guide future commissioning across the Mosman Local Government Area (LGA). These opportunities will be informed by the the curatorial framework and desired community experience, ensuring a diverse yet cohesive network of artistic interventions that enrich the public realm and strengthen connections to Mosman.

Located within publicly accessible areas, each opportunity will outline an indicative artwork location, intended experience, artwork typology, form, scale, indicative budget and recommended commissioning and implementation approach.

The selection of artists will prioritise diverse and local perspectives and practices, including opportunities for First Nations artists to contribute works that reflect cultural knowledge, stories and connections to place.

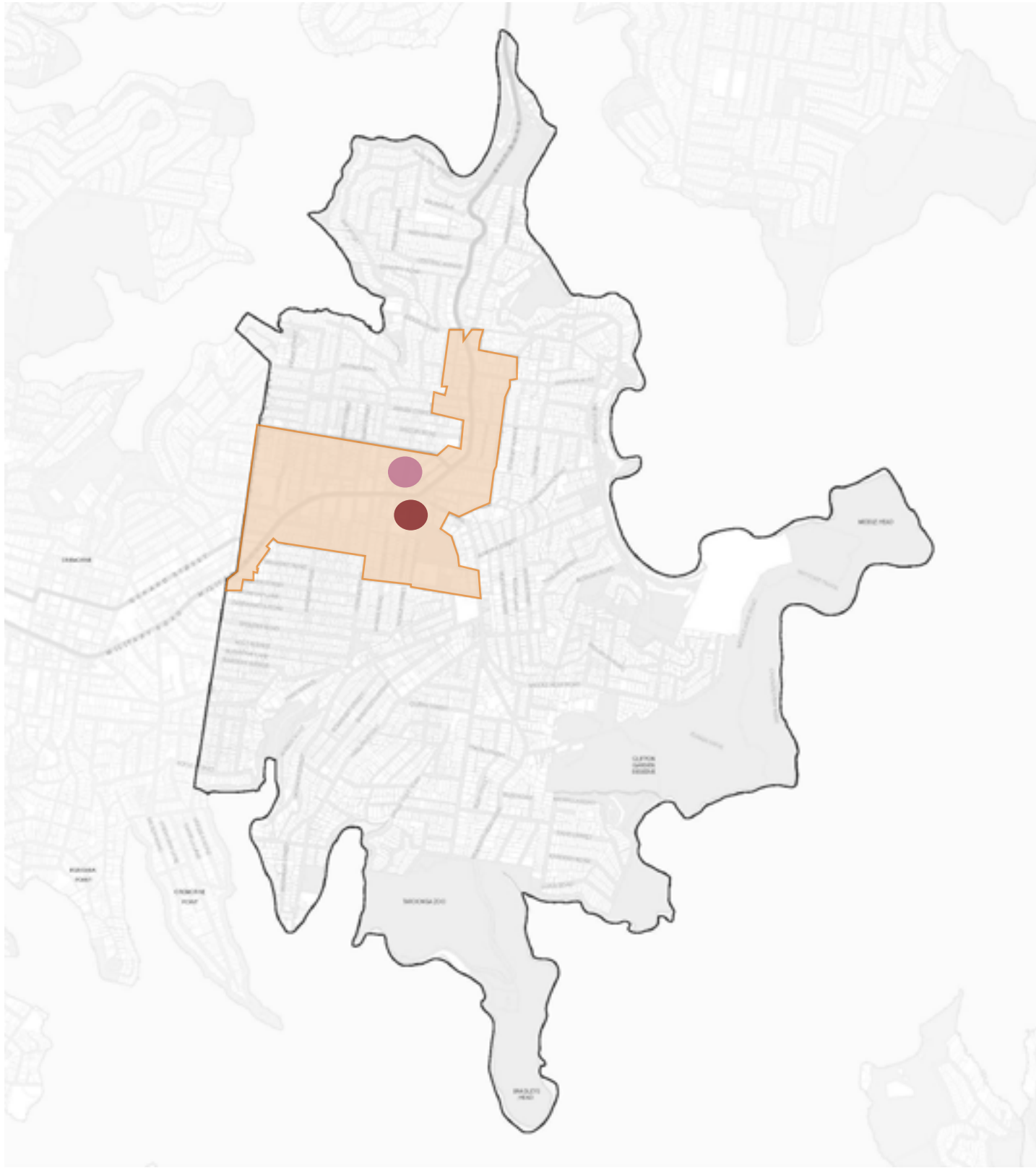
Preliminary Artwork Opportunities

The map right outlines the Mosman LGA boundary and highlights the proposed Mosman Masterplan redevelopment area (seen in orange).

At this interim stage, a series of potential artwork activation zones has been identified for further investigation within the Mosman Masterplan redevelopment zone. This will be explored through the next stages of the Public Art Masterplan, and include, but are not limited to:

- Bridgepoint
- Civic Precinct Place

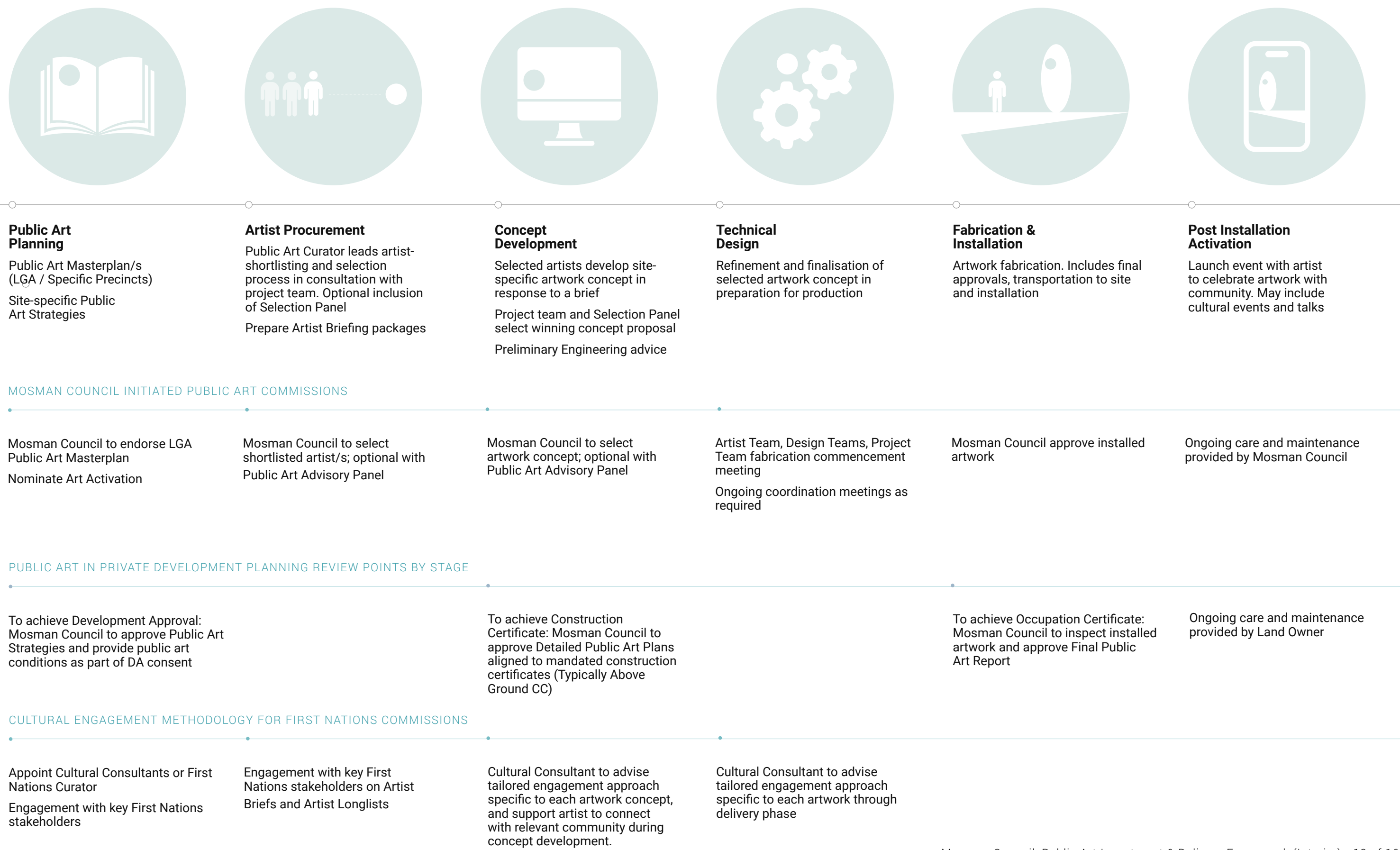
Other artwork opportunities will be assessed strategically across the open spaces in the LGA, identifying locations of cultural, civic, environmental and experiential significance. This may include key destinations, movement corridors and moments of arrival, gathering and discovery where public art can deepen understanding of local histories and identities.



Public Art Delivery

Public Art Delivery

Benchmark Commissioning Process



Project Team | UAP



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